

I yield back all time and ask that we proceed to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Ms. STABENOW. I withdraw my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

COVID VACCINES

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I am proud to share with all of you the experience of California this last year in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to say that California has led the way on COVID-19 prevention and vaccine because we have seen the devastation that surging cases can cause.

Last winter—remember where we were last winter? A catastrophic surge in my home county of Los Angeles overwhelmed local hospitals, as was the case, frankly, in many parts of the country. Families were desperate to find care for their loved ones. Ambulances struggled to find hospitals with capacity.

As we approach this winter season, I recognize that we made incredible progress turning the tide since those tragic times. Now, just a month ago, California achieved the lowest level of COVID-19 transmission of any State in the Nation, but today cases are beginning to rise again. We are seeing the effects of the changing weather.

We need to stay vigilant to prevent another devastating surge like the wave that peaked in California and across the country last winter.

Fortunately, today, we are armed with a powerful defense: an FDA-approved vaccine that is safe, that is effective, and that is free for all. California's historic vaccination effort—made possible by the resources that we helped deliver when we passed the American Rescue Plan—has covered more than three-quarters of our residents, more than 55 million shots in arms of Californians.

But now is not the time to let up. Every person who gets the vaccine helps to stop spread of the virus in our community. And we just received two new critical weapons: One, booster shots to increase protections for adults and, two, approval of a vaccine for children older than 5.

Colleagues, during last week's State work period, I had the privilege of joining leaders of the Los Angeles Unified School District for the opening of their first vaccine clinic, a mobile clinic on school sites for students ages 5 and up. I saw firsthand the anxious excitement of families looking forward to a freer, safer life for children. Imagine that, play dates with friends, holiday celebrations with grandparents, and relief for those with family members at higher risk.

Now, as parents of younger children, Angela and I know that this pandemic has especially been hard on children. For more than a year, as we would

gather together to pray as a family, our youngest, Diego, whom many of you met, would ask God for COVID to be over. And he would then ask when a vaccine would be ready for him and his brothers.

That is why it was such a big deal when the vaccine was approved for children ages 5 and older. Angela and I were vaccinated earlier this year. Our oldest son, Roman, was vaccinated months ago. And, finally, last week, Diego and Alex received their vaccines. So we know that we are sharing this moment of joy with millions of families across the country who are relieved that our children will be better protected against COVID-19.

Colleagues, as we approach this now second Thanksgiving since the start of the pandemic, we recognize that we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for the scientists who drew on years of research to design and test one of the most effective vaccines that we have ever seen. We are thankful for the doctors and nurses who are helping to administer the vaccine to as many people as possible while caring for the sick. And we continue to be thankful for all the essential workers who take on high-risk jobs to keep food on our tables and keep the economy going.

So it is in the spirit of all this that I ask each and every one of you to do your part. To everyone at home, please, each and every one of you do your part. Protect yourself. Protect your family. Protect your community. Get vaccinated. Get your children vaccinated. Go check to see if you are eligible for a booster, and if you are, find one near you at vaccines.gov. We have come to appreciate how vaccination is the key to a safe holiday season, and it is key to ending the pandemic for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

VOTE ON BONNIE NOMINATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled to start at 2:30 begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bonnie nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 469 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shelby
Capito	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Marshall	Toomey
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Ossoff	Young
Fischer	Padilla	
Gillibrand	Peters	

NAYS—19

Barrasso	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Murkowski	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	
Hagerty	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—5

Hassan	Markey	Warren
Inhofe	Shaheen	

The nomination was confirmed.
(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Illinois.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Nelson nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK LEAHY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the desk behind me is empty at this moment, but whenever anything important is taking place on the floor, you will find seated there the dean of the U.S. Senate, Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont.

This week, he surprised a number of us by announcing his retirement at the end of next year.

I have come to know PAT during my service in the Senate. He is a humanitarian. He is a gifted lawmaker and a